

Segment 9 - Smithfield to Idaho

General Description

This trail segment connects the NBST to Idaho along a route that starts in Smithfield (see maps 15, 16, and 17 in Appendix G). The trail has several possible alternative routes including a powerline corridor, a foothills trail, and the Upper High Creek Canal. The trail will become a link between Smithfield and Richmond with possible future links to Idaho towns as well. The trail crosses variable terrain and land uses as it heads north. The predominant trail characteristic is rolling hills across agricultural lands. The trail is easily accessible from both Smithfield and Richmond.

Environmental Description

Slope

The trail along this section has a western aspect. The terrain is a mixture of rolling hills, agricultural land, and steep slopes around the entrances to the canyons.

Hydrology

The trail comes into contact with several intermittent streams and two perennial streams. The intermittent streams are crossed close to the opening of the canyons along this segment. Several of these are Nebo Creek, City Creek, and Cherry Creek. Cherry Creek and High Creek are the two perennial streams crossed by the trail.

Wildlife

The trail crosses approximately 5 miles of critical deer and elk winter range.



Geology

The trail crosses a number of land slide areas between Smithfield and Richmond. The Eastern Cache (Logan) Fault is paralleled along the entire segment of trail.

Alternative A- the PacifiCorp Powerline Corridor (10.5 Miles)

This trail alternative will start at the trailhead located in Smithfield Canyon and proceed north along the powerline corridor until it reaches the Ballentine Springs area. This powerline corridor may continue into Idaho, but the information can not be verified at this time.

Ownership

The land the trail would cross would be within the PacifiCorp powerline corridor easement.

Trail Development Opportunities

- ❖ The corridor the trail would follow already exists and would not require extensive construction, and
- ❖ The trail would provide a diverse section of terrain.

Trail Development Constraints

- ❖ The trail corridor does not pay respect to the topography of the land it crosses, and
- ❖ The powerline corridor may not reach the border of Idaho.

Trailheads

- ❖ Smithfield Canyon,
- ❖ Cherry Creek, and
- ❖ High Creek.

Alternative B- the 5,100-Foot Elevation Contour (14.3 Miles)

This trail alternative would begin at the trailhead located in Smithfield Canyon and proceed north along the 5,100-foot contour. The contour would wind the trail through both public and private lands. Private agricultural lands and State Wildlife Reserve Lands are the two most prevalent land uses the trail would contact. This route would be the most rural setting along this narrow section as the populated areas the trail passes are close to the mountains. The trail terrain is predominantly flat as the route stays relatively close to the 5,100-foot contour.

Ownership

The land along this segment is both publically held and privately owned.

Trail Development Opportunities

- ❖ The route would follow relatively flat terrain and would allow a trail, and
- ❖ The trail would stay away from the populated areas and provide a rural setting.

Trail Development Constraints

- ❖ The trail does not follow an existing corridor so construction would be more involved, and
- ❖ The trail does not meet up with an existing trailhead in Idaho.

Trailheads

The trailheads proposed for Alternative B would be the same as described for Alternative A.

Other Trail Alignment Opportunities

The extensive canal systems and the roads and paths that follow them would present good opportunities for possible routes. Upper High Creek Canal could be accessed from Richmond and then connect to the NBST at High Creek. Lower High Creek Canal could also be used as a western trail route that might tie into the Cutler Marsh trail system.

Potential Trail Linkages

The links along this segment that can be made include:

- ❖ Smithfield and Smithfield Canyon,
- ❖ Richmond,
- ❖ Wasatch Cache National Forest, and
- ❖ Cherry Creek and High Creek.

Other Potential Trail Linkages

Highway 89 / Wellsville Canyon

This link from Brigham City into Cache Valley would provide a 12.7-mile recreational route along the existing highway. The trail would be separated from the road and most likely be a paved surface. The link would intersect the NBST east of Brigham City at the proposed Knudson Trailhead and west of Wellsville at the proposed trailhead for segment five. This link would provide a more direct route from Box Elder County to Cache County. The community of Mantua would be connected to the NBST by this link.

Mantua to Avon

This 10.6-mile link would utilize existing jeep roads to cross from Mantua to Avon. The corridor would access more back country than many segments of the NBST. The distance from Avon to Brigham City using this suggested link and the link from Brigham City to Wellsville would be approximately 13 miles. Within the town of Mantua, there is a high level of interest and support from citizens and elected officials for this potential trail linkage. Mantua's general plan includes a trail system component and an ordinance establishing this trail linkage component is presently under development.



Mount Pisgah Road

This link to the NBST starts off of Highway 89 just south of the Dry Lake Area in Wellsville Canyon. The link would then continue east following the Mount Pisgah jeep road for 6.1 miles before intersecting with segment five of the NBST at Baxter Ridge. This access to the backcountry, Avon, Paradise, and the NBST would create ideal trails for both equestrian and mountain bike trail users.

Northern Bonneville Shoreline Trail (NBST) to Malad, Idaho

This link would continue the NBST from trail segment 3 north to the Idaho border. The trail would follow the Bear River corridor north to the power line station just east of the Cutler Reservoir. The trail would then use the land easements near the power line corridor to the Idaho State line.

Cutler Reservoir Lands

PacifiCorp is committed to further development of trails around Cutler Reservoir. This trail system will allow recreationists to access reservoir lands that contain some of Cache Valley's most important wetland ecosystems. The Cutler Reservoir Trail system can potentially be accessed from the NBST by three alternative trail corridors. These corridors do not intersect the NBST directly, but they do link to communities that are on the NBST Trail system (see Figure 2).

- ❖ The 8.0-mile Railroad Walking Trail, which follows an abandoned railroad corridor and bridge crossing south of Benson Marina, would link Logan City's trail system with the Cutler Reservoir.
- ❖ The 3.3-mile Bud Phelps Wildlife Management Area Walking Trail would link Logan City's trail system to Cutler Reservoir.
- ❖ The 3.4-mile Little Bear River Walking Trail would link Alternative A along Segment 3 of the NBST to the Little Bear River and Cutler Reservoir.

